

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /077 W

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R 150235Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0852

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, NP, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ECONOMIC MISSION DEPARTS NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 6561'

1. THE CHINESE ECONOMIC DELEGATION WHICH HAD ARRIVED IN KATHMANDU JANUARY 28 DEPARTED FEBRUARY 8. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SPECUALTION IN THE PRESS THAT THE CHINESE WOULD AGREE TO UNDERTAKE SEVERAL NEW PROJECTS, THE ONLY AGREEMENT FORMALLY SIGNED WAS FOR THE MIDDLE HILLS ROAD RUNNING FROM POKHARA TO SURKHET. SEE REFTEL FOR REPORT ON THIS PROJECT. MINISTER OF STATE BHEKH THAPA REPORTED HOWEVER THAT CONSTRUCTION WOULD SOON COMMENCE WITH CHINESE COOPERATION, ON A TEXTILE FACTORY, ABRICK AND TILE FACTORY, AND THE GORKHA-NARAYANGHT ROAD, FOR WHICH AGREE-MENTS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN SIGNED.

2. WHILE IN NEPAL, THE CHINESE DELGATION LED BY VICE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS TAO CHI, RECEIVED AN AUDIENCE WITH KING BIRENDRA AND CALLED ON VARIOUS GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER RIJAL AND FOREIGN

MINISTER KARKI. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT REPORTED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD "A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE DAYS TO COME AND THAT BOTH SIDES EXPRESSED THEIR READINESS TO CONTINUE FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." ONLY COMMENT WITH ANY POLITICAL CONTENT CONTAINED IN COMMUNIQUE WAS STATEMENT THAT THE "CHINESE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DELEGATION HIGHLY PRAISED THE MARKED ACHIEVEMENTS SCORED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF NEPAL UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF KING BIRENDRA IN SAFE-GUARDING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL ECONOMY THROUGH SELF RELIANCE."

3. COMMENT: THAPA'S COMMENTS REFER TO THE TEXTILE FACTORY AT HETAURA AND A BRICK AND TILE FACTORY IN SURYAVINAYAK NEAR KHAKTAPUR FOR WHICH AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SIGNED IN 1974. FOLLOWING EXTENDED PRELIMINARY WORK, CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SHORTLY. ACCORDING TO GON OFFICIALS, DETAILED SURVEY WORK HAS ALSO BEEN COMPLETED ON THE GORKHA-NARAYANGHAT ROAD, AND CONSTRUCTION SHOULD ALSO BEGIN SHORTLY ON THIS PROJECT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE GON DID NOT EXPECT THE PRC TO AGREE TO ANY NEW PROJECTS OTHER THAN THE POKHARA-SURKHET ROAD AT THIS TIME. A CHINESE TEAM IS HOWEVER PRESENTLY CONDUCTING A SURVEY FOR HIGH LAND IRRIGATION IN NEPAL. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE IRRIGATION PHASE OF THE STUDY, A SEPARATE CHINESE TEAM WILL ARRIVE TO SURVEY POWER REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO LIFT WATER FOR IRRIGATION. IF THESE SURVEYS RESULT IN FAVORABLE CONCLUSIONS, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE CHINESE WILL AGREE TO UNDERTAKE A COMBINED IRRIGATION-HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN NEPAL.

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